

TWO YEAR OR FOUR YEAR

by Kenneth Ingram, CGCS

What's your answer when young people ask you what's the best education for a golf course superintendent today? For the past 25 years most of us entered our profession with a two year degree in Turf Management, shouldn't our standards be higher today? What is the best field to major in, agronomy, business management, recreation? Finally, why is there always such a distance between the two year programs and the respective universities?

I see some basic problems with the four year programs, this is probably why so many students continue in the two year programs. As we all know education is like a pyramid, the longer you study the more specific the subject. As golf course superintendents that's the last thing we need, we need diversity. Secondly, it has always been my belief that the two year schools gave a lot of us a chance to get a college education because we couldn't afford the time or money for a four year program. There is no doubt that the two year programs have been successful, they have turned out some exceptional superintendents.

Both educational frameworks have certain merits. The two year programs offer specific practical curriculums, often with classes and subjects not available through the university. The four year programs offer a complete, well rounded education, with a broad base in the sciences. Most of us will agree that if a student can afford a four year program and handle it academically, they should pursue it. If not, will the two year program suffice?

This is where I have a problem, why this either/or situation. If there was more reciprocity in transferring grades and credits between the programs, students who find a real calling in our field would be able to go on and pursue a higher education. The interested student should not have to repeat similar courses, the courses should be taught on the same level in both programs.

The four year programs should be geared to produce people who are ready to enter our profession upon graduation. The required courses should be more relevant to fine turf management, and work-study programs should be offered as part of their curriculum. An industry panel that would work with the universities in setting up these programs would certainly be a step in the right direction. Changes must be made, we must gear our programs to the future not the present. We need people coming into our profession equipped to handle the challenge and the commitment that our profession is offering.

There are many forms of education, not all of them formal. There is a lot to be said for seminars, certification, work experience, and association involvement. But what about the formal education, our young people aren't sure which direction to go. Don't you think the day is coming when employers will be looking for that Bachelor of Science degree?

Golf

by Tom Regan, CGCS

Our Point Tournament winner is none other than Russ Bateman, the man who vowed to be a threat all year, from Baltimore Municipal Golf Corporation. Russ accumulated 36½ points over the five courses we played throughout the summer. Congratulations Russ. Second place goes to Kenny Ingram of Columbia Country Club with 30½ points, third was Nick (Sandbag) Vance with 27½ points followed by John Newcomb and Jeff Yingling with 25 points, and our illustrious President George (portly) Renault was 5th with 23½ points. Congratulations to all, the prizes will be awarded at our December meeting.

Our October meeting will be held at Rehoboth Beach and we will be vying for the Vince Triplett (low net) and Bill Glover (low gross) memorial trophies. A certain Superintendent in the Baltimore area whose handicap is not indicative to the number of rounds he plays, has been heard saying he doesn't feel comfortable with such a high handicap and will play only for the gross prize next month.

October is a good time to go to the beach, so let's have a good turnout and remember to make your golf and dinner reservations. The November meeting will be held at Bethesda Country Club on November 8th.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee, Lee Dieter, Chairman, and members Bob Miller and Sam Kessel, met and have the following slate to present to the membership. For President, Walter Montross; Vice President, Bill Neus; Treasurer, Nick Vance; Secretary, Steve Cohoon and Lester Tanner; and for Directors (2), Donn Dietrick, Joel Ratcliff, Lou Rudinski and James Meier.

Nominations will be accepted at the meeting from the floor.

Tired of Calling Reservations?

Are you regularly attending our meetings and getting tired of that monthly phone call? Steve Potter may have the answer for you. Call only when you can't attend! Join the PERMANENT RESERVATION CLUB. Ask Steve for details or give him a ring. Your fellow members that are already members are: Walter Montross, Steve Potter, Kenneth Ingram, Tom Regan, Lance Ernst, George Renault, Lee Dieter, Thomas Walsh, Barton Bullock, Steven Nash, Chris Paradise, Bill Neus, Nick Vance, Lester Tanner, Thomas Ritter, Grant Pensinger and David Fairbank.

1988-1989 MAAGCS Schedule

Date	Location	Speaker/Topic
October 11	Rehoboth Country Club Thomas List, CGCS	John Segui, GCSAA President Certification
October 21	Columbia Country Club Kenneth Ingram, CGCS	60th Anniversary, MAAGCS Ladies Night, Dinner-Dance
November 8	Bethesda Country Club Thomas Regan, CGCS	Stanley Zontec, USGA Winter Play
December 13	Turf Valley Country Club William Blackert	Election Meeting
January 9	GCSAA Seminar Budgeting and Forecasting	Virginia Conference
January 9-11	Maryland Turfgrass Expo 89	Conference and Trade Show
January 16	GCSAA Seminar Negotiating	Virginia Conference
January 17-19	Virginia Turfgrass Conference	Conference and Trade Show
February 6-13	60th GCSAA International Golf Course Conference	Conference and Trade Show Anaheim, California
March 14	Chevy Chase Country Club George Renault, CGCS	To be announced